Attachment D

Comment Letters

From: "Mark Norton" <MNorton@sawpa.org>
To: <Hsmythe@rb8.swrcb.ca.gov>
Date: 6/15/05 10:57AM
Subject: Middle SAR Pathogen TMDL Staff Report Attachment A

Hope,
On page 15 of 15 of the Attachment A to Resolution No. R8-2005-0001, last footnote on page, could you please include SAWPA to the list of participants on the task force and indicate that SAWPA is serving as the administrator for the Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force? In case you were not aware, SAWPA is a named party of the task force agreement and is also helping to fund the study. Thanks!

Mark R. Norton P.E.
Water Resources and Planning Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
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CC: <brice@rb8.swrcb.ca.gov>

PW004405

OFFICE OF: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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June 7, 2005

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339

RE: Comments on Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDL Staff Report and Basin Plan Amendment

City of Corona would like to take this opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Bacterial Indicator TMDL as described in the TMDL Staff Report and the proposed Basin Plan Amendment language. We see an urgent need for the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board staff to address the shortcomings and unsupported conclusions presented in the Staff Report prior to adoption of the proposed TMDL.

The first step in preparing a TMDL is problem identification, which identifies those reaches failing to support all designated beneficial uses. Analysis of historical sampling data collected throughout the MSAR watershed appears to be the method in which those reaches were identified. In this TMDL study, data collected in the Chino Basin Watershed and from Santa Ana River Reach 3 (SAR-3) in the Riverside Watershed supports the impairment for those identified reaches due to elevated pathogen indicator levels. However, it is noteworthy that all samples supporting the impairments for those reaches, including SAR-3, in this TMDL were taken upstream of the Temescal Canyon Watershed. While Temescal Creek is tributary to SAR-3, it is downstream of all TMDL sampling locations in the Chino Basin and Riverside watersheds. Thus it is inconclusive and unsupportive that this watershed contributes to the impairments identified upstream. Temescal Creek joins the Santa Ana River within the densely vegetated Prado Flood Control Basin where flow is detained behind the Prado Dam. It is extremely unlikely for water contact recreation to occur in this area due to dense vegetation, lack of access, and flow spreading. Samples downstream of Prado Dam also show some reduction in bacteria levels, indicating that some treatment is occurring through the detainment process. In addition, monitoring data from the Chino Basin watershed is not a good indicator of bacteria levels in the Temescal Canyon watershed as historical uses of the developed land are significantly different. We recommend that the Temescal Canyon Watershed be re-considered for inclusion in the TMDL as there is no supporting data to conclude its contribution to the identified impairments.

The second step in TMDL preparation is linkage analysis wherein sources of coliform bacteria in the water are linked to observed conditions in the impaired waterbody. A sophisticated model of Chino Basin is being developed to correlate the sources with the impairment. However, taking an empirical look at the land uses and related historical sampling data clearly indicates that the highest levels of bacteria and most significant source are agricultural uses of the land, and in particular dairy farming (CAFOs). While CAFOs are currently regulated to eliminate discharges up to the 25-year, 24-hour storm event, it is unclear if the permits are being enforced and that discharges have ceased. We believe that TMDL source evaluation efforts should concentrate on CAFO runoff from the Chino Basin watershed, and not urban uses.

The proposed MSAR TMDL, unlike other bacteria TMDLs recently approved in the region, does not provide for a natural source exclusion. The Malibu Creek and Santa Monica Bay Beaches TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region, and the draft TMDL for beaches and creeks in the San Diego region have included allowable exceedances of single sample bacteria limits under wet weather conditions. The Technical Advisory Committee for the Santa Monica Bay Beaches TMDL referenced in the Malibu Creek TMDL staff report recognized that "even relatively undeveloped watersheds exceed bacteria standards on occasion due to natural sources such as birds and other wildlife" (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Staff Report, January 2004). The MSAR TMDL does not account for natural exceedances and does not allow for this incorporation even though no wet weather samples were taken from the undeveloped areas as part of this study. We believe that the TMDL should at minimum, include a natural source exclusion for wet weather similar to other approved bacteria TMDLs in the region.

The proposed Task 3-Monitoring Program of the TMDL implementation plan should be delayed or revised until the outcome of the Storm Water Quality Task Force (Task Force). Results of the Task Force would indicate what constituents should be sampled for, the level of compliance, and points of compliance. For example, a reach that is currently pathogen impaired or tributary to an impaired waterbody may be recommended to have a different water quality standard due to a revised beneficial use designation. In some cases, the recreational beneficial use may no longer apply. Therefore within that reach, compliance strategies may change. We therefore recommend that Task 3 efforts begin after recommendations have been made by the Task Force, or that efforts proposed as part of the Task Force be given credit for this task.

The proposed margin of safety to account for bacteria re-growth is not supported by scientific data. Until there is sufficient scientific evidence on the rate, time and location of re-growth, it is presumptive to apply a re-growth factor to the numeric target since samples might be subject to already having re-growth. We recommend that the margin of safety factor for re-growth be removed from the proposed TMDL, or addressed through a different manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. As a municipality, we are committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of our citizens including water quality protection; however, we also need to ensure that resources and efforts are not unduly spent. If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Michele Colbert at (951) 736-2248

Sincerely,

Ati Eskandari
Assistant Public Works Director

MC:sc

c: Jason Uhley, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Hope Smythe, California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Santa Ana Region
Don Williams
Tom Koper, Principal Engineer

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"People Serving People"

2005 JUN 22 P 6:46

JES
HAS
WSR 6/23

June 22, 2005

Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside CA 92501-3339

RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MIDDLE SAR PATHOGEN TMDL

Dear Mr. Thibeault,

The City is concerned about the significant changes that have been made to the proposed basin plan amendment for a bacterial TMDL in the middle Santa Ana River (SAR). The City has been an active participant in the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL process since its inception in 2001. The stakeholder group was initially tasked with developing TMDLs for nutrients and pathogens in the middle Santa Ana River including the Chino Basin tributaries. The nutrient issues were quickly resolved which allowed the group to focus on violations of the Basin Plan objectives for fecal coliform. It was understood that the use of a fecal coliform indicator as a water quality standard would be changing in the future. Board staff made clear at that time that it would be necessary to move forward with a TMDL for that indicator in order to comply with deadlines dictated by the Clean Water Act and the courts. As we read the proposed amendment at this point in time, it appears that the scope has been significantly expanded. Specifically, numeric "targets" for E. Coli and a 10% margin of safety in the objectives have been added at the eleventh hour. The City requests that the Board remove numeric limitations or targets for E. Coli and provide clarification on the use of the safety factor it has proposed.

The inclusion of a numeric target for E.Coli is inappropriate since it is not a legally adopted standard. We agree with the staff report when it states that 126 E. Coli organisms/100 ml is correlated to the 200 fecal coliform organisms/100 ml but this is a tenuous relationship at best. Staff appear to be relying on the 1986 EPA criteria document for the proposed E. Coli target. By using this value they are assuming a risk factor that may not be appropriate for the water bodies in question. EPA recognizes in their draft guidance document that the historical risk factor for fresh water of 8 excess illnesses per 1000 exposed swimmers (approx. 200 fecal coliform) may not be appropriate when you consider that the marine risk factor is typically 19/1000. The State is free to adjust this factor within stipulated confidence levels. If the risk factor went from 8 to 10, the geometric mean for E. Coli would go from 126/100 ml to 205/100 ml. The question of what is the appropriate risk factor to use is being addressed by the Stormwater Quality

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Standards Task Force. Time should be given for them to complete this study. Further, to our knowledge, no studies have been done to determine the attainability or cost of attainment with the new standards. Staff is aware of these issues and is careful not to call the E. Coli numbers limits by substituting the word "target". The problem is that a "target" is not defined in the amendment. What happens if you exceed a target? Does the Board have the authority to require any action based on the failure to meet a target? If it does then it is not a target, it is a standard. If it doesn't then what is the point? Regulatory agencies such as USEPA and non-governmental organizations have a habit of interpreting goals and targets as hard limits. Numeric limits or targets should not be introduced into the Basin Plan until they have gone through the formal standard setting process.

We have reviewed the E. Coli database developed for this TMDL and it seems possible that the main-stem of the SAR may comply with the new standards given allowable risk factors. The Board should first adopt the new pathogen standards, review the use designations and then determine if a TMDL is necessary. This amendment suggests a standard and an associated WLA when it might not be needed.

The use of a safety factor may be appropriate but the proposed amendment needs to be clear where that standard must be met. We would argue and we hope the Board agrees that it is not appropriate at the point of use. For example since the main-stem of the SAR is designated REC-1 and the REC-1 standard is 200 fecal coliform /100 ml, then if the geometric mean of samples taken in the main-stem is less than or equal to 200, the river is in compliance. A run-off entering the stream could be limited to 180 organisms/100 ml to address uncertainty in the waste-load allocation. If re-growth is a concern then the safety factor should only apply to water before it gets to the REC-1 designated waters. Ambient samples taken at the EPA study sites used to develop the criteria should have had the same or higher re-growth potential as the SAR. The point here is that there is no reason to believe that water swallowed at the criteria development site would be any less harmful than water with the same coliform (or E. coli) contamination at this site. If there is a reason to think that the conditions in the SAR are fundamentally different then the entire standard setting process would be in question. It is, therefore, our position that a safety factor at the point of use is not appropriate. If a safety factor is to be applied, further clarification including where the standard applies, is necessary.

If the Board feels that they must include E. Coli targets then we request that the single sample maximum be removed or modified. EPA's proposed criteria includes four possible classifications for single sample maximum allowable density. These values are meant as management tools. Unlike maximum criteria used in toxic standards, these numbers do not relate to an acute endpoint or time of exposure. The following example reflects our understanding of how the single sample maximum is meant to work and what it means: Lets say your standard is a geometric mean of 126 organisms /100 ml. We know that there are a lot of things that can affect the individual value you get for each sample and we represent those differences by the log standard deviation (.4 for freshwater). If you think of a bell curve the log standard deviation represents how wide the bell is around the 126 mean. Lets say that the water is at a mean standard of 126 and

that you go out and take ten days of samples. The value of those individual samples will randomly fall above on or below the 126 mean within this bell. If you graph the bell and call the left side 0 and the right side 100% with the middle (126 mean) equal to 50% you can see what EPAs numbers mean. The first classification listed by EPA is the Designated Beach Area. It is set at the upper confidence level of 75% . That means that going from left to right across the curve the point where you have covered 75% of the area of the curve is the 75th confidence level. In this case that is 235 E. Coli/ 100ml. That is for a mean of 126 with a .4 std. dev. 75 % of all the samples you take should be at or below 235 / 100 ml. The problem here is that that also means that 25 % of the samples you take that are part of the otherwise compliant sampling effort will be above this line. To complete the example on the other end, if you used the classification of Infrequently Used Full Body Contact Recreation with its 95% confidence level the single sample maximum would be at 576 E. Coli /100 ml (95% of the area under the bell).

As was stated at the outset, this is meant to be a management tool. If you take one sample a week and you have a result of 250 E. Coli /100 ml you could say I'm probably under the bell but since I've got 50,000 people at the beach the stakes are high and I may want to keep them out of the water until I can take some more samples and confirm that its in the bell. On the other hand if you have a few people using the water you could say that the relative risk is acceptable and I'll assume it's in the bell until the next mean is calculated. One of the things that the Board will have to determine in the future is how single sample exceedances will be looked at when determining if a water body needs a TMDL since you can and will have singe sample exceedances while you are complying with geometric mean standards.

Tying this in with our previous comment; if we aren't going to be managing based on the "target" value then the single sample maximum isn't needed and should not be included in this amendment.

Lastly, should the Board determine that they want a single sample maximum we request that it be based on something other than the requirement for a "Designated Beach Area". As was stated earlier, EPA proposed four different categories of use and associated maximum allowable densities. What they didn't put in the criteria documents are definitions of those categories. The definitions will have to be formulated at the time of standard setting by the Board. For the sake of this discussion let us assume conservative definitions as follows:

Category	Average Daily Usage (swimmers/day)
Infrequently Used Full Body Contact	1 or less
Lightly Used Full Body Contact	10 – 2
Moderate Full Body Contact	100 – 11
Designated Beach Area	101 or greater

(These numbers may be overly conservative depending on the spatial and temporal considerations used in calculating averages.)

Based on the Van Buren Blvd. bridge crossing recreational use survey performed by the City in the summer of 2004 and on preliminary data from a more widespread and longer term study being performed by Wildermuth Environmental, the annual average daily use along the upper zones of the Santa Ana River would likely fall between the "Infrequent" and "Lightly Used" categories. (Note: Van Buren Survey 7/1/04-10/16/04, 60 days of data, total 101 people in contact with the SAR water, 1.7 people/day average, does not include people in the reclaimed water effluent channel.) Although the data is minimal and the criteria for use categories is only useful for illustrative purposes, it is clear that the upper SAR is not equivalent to a designated Beach Area like Newport or Laguna. We respectfully request that if the Board includes a single sample maximum for E.coli in this amendment, that it be based on the Lightly Used Full Body Contact Recreation category. This number can be refined when the standard setting process is complete and the use categories have been formally determined.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important amendment. If you have any questions please call me at (951) 351-6011.

Sincerely,

Rodney W. Cruze

Rodney W. Cruze
Operations Manager
Riverside Regional Water Quality Control Plant
5950 Acorn Street
Riverside, CA 92504

CC: *Hope Smythe, RWQCB*
Siobhan Foster
Steve Schultz
Sandy Caldwell
file

PW064-05

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June 23, 2005

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339

Comments for the Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDL Public Workshop- June 24, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board, as an incorporated city identified within the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed and thus subject to the proposed bacterial indicator TMDL and associated urban Waste Load Allocation, the City of Corona would like to take this opportunity to address the following two items. We hope that the Board would consider these items at the Public Workshop for a Review of Provisions to Incorporate a Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDL into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin Plan (Basin Plan) scheduled on June 24, 2005.

First Item- Dry Weather Compliance Schedule

The City of Corona operates 3 wastewater treatment plants with a combined treatment capacity of 15 MGD, serving a population of approximately 141,000 and associated businesses.

Assuming that dry weather flows from urban areas within the Temescal Canyon sub-watershed are found to be a leading source of bacteria to the impaired waterbodies, one of the alternatives to meet the proposed pathogen TMDL could be diversion of dry weather flows from the municipal storm drainage system to a treatment plant for treatment and discharge back into the receiving waters. Other alternatives to address dry weather and first flush flows must also be considered during TMDL implementation and could include regional BMPs identified through the regional study performed by the Riverside County Permittees as required by the Riverside County MS4 NPDES Permit.

Currently, the wastewater treatment plants operated by City of Corona do not have capacity to treat additional flows from non-sanitary sewer sources. One or all of the treatment plants would have to be upgraded to accept the additional flows. In addition, there are specific concerns regarding toxicity that may be found in dry weather runoff. The effluent limits designated in our POTW NPDES permit are consistent with the

California Toxics Rule and the adopted State policy for implementation of toxic standards for inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries. Unlike other local agencies that treat urban runoff and discharge to the ocean, inland POTW must consider stringent toxic effluent limits in the treatment design process. The concentration of these constituents in urban runoff must be characterized and treatment methods carefully selected.

The initial study and design of any treatment method and diversion process to address dry weather runoff cannot begin until a multi-agency planning effort is formed, monitoring is performed, and budgeting is found. In particular, pathogen contribution from each agency discharging to the Temescal sub-watershed must be identified such that costs are fairly shared. Exhibit A shows surrounding jurisdictions within this sub-watershed. Accordingly, the alternatives to meet dry weather TMDL compliance cannot be developed until at least Tasks 3 and 4 of the proposed TMDL Implementation Plan have been implemented.

We believe that a feasible timeline to implement a dry weather diversion treatment alternative more appropriately follows this approximate schedule:

- Complete initial source studies and monitoring to determine pollutant levels and appropriate treatment alternatives – 2.5 years
- Determine feasibility and complete preliminary design – 2 years
- Complete planning and EIR process– 1.5 years
- Secure funding – 1 year
- Complete final design and construction – 2 years

Public agencies must also consider budget cycles when undertaking a large scale project effort, which could extend the proposed schedule. For this reason, a more reliable schedule to achieve dry weather compliance would be approximately 10 years from the adoption of the TMDL if this alternative were selected. This is also consistent with our recent experience which took approximately 8 years to accomplish a 6 MGD plant upgrade from EIR to completion.

Also of note, treatment costs for the additional flow would incur roughly an additional operating cost of $2.1 million annually, assuming 6 cfs of dry weather flow is diverted and treated at a daily cost of $1,145 per MGD to treat. This cost does not include collection system operation and maintenance, which we anticipate could be as much as twice the cost to treat. Therefore securing on-going funding sources must also be considered in the implementation schedule.

Second Item- Temescal Sub-watershed Contribution to Pathogen Impairment

As stated in our letter to the Regional Board on June 7, 2005, we would like to take this opportunity to address the drainage characteristics of the Temescal Canyon Sub-watershed in relation to the Santa Ana River-Reach 3 (SAR-3) and Prado Dam Basin. The Temescal Creek and SAR-3 drain into the Prado Basin Management Zone. As shown on Exhibit B, the Prado Dam Basin 100-year floodplain creates this management zone. However, there is not a true confluence between the Temescal Creek and SAR-3 as indicated in the Basin Plan. Flows are spread in dense vegetation

and do not move along a flow path as they do in the upstream segments, creating a wetland environment. All sampling as part of this TMDL study were collected along the SAR-3 upstream of the Basin. Some sampling was performed downstream of the Prado Dam along SAR-2, however all Chino Basin streams, SAR-3 and Temescal are tributary to this point. Water quality at this site is also affected by wetlands processes in the Prado Basin. Thus it seems inconclusive that the Temescal watershed contributes to the pathogen impairment identified for SAR-3 and we believe should not be included in this TMDL.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please contact me at (951) 736-2447.

Sincerely,

Ati Eskandari
Assistant Public Works Director

Enclosures

c: Jason Uhley, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Hope Smythe, California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Santa Ana Region
Bill Rice, California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Santa Ana Region
Brad Robbins, Asst City Mgr/DWP Gen Mgr
Amad Qattan, Public Works Director
Don Williams, Assistant General Manager
Tom Koper, Principal Engineer

EXHIBIT "A"

Temescal Creek Sub-Watershed Surrounding Areas

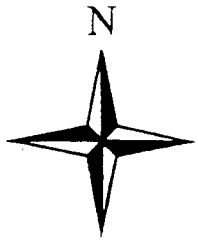
CITY OF RIVERSIDE

Legend

- Prado Basin
- Santa Ana River - Reach 2
- Santa Ana River - Reach 3
- Temescal Creek
- Joseph Canyon Wash
- Bedford Canyon Wash
- Main Street Channel
- Oak Street Channel
- Mabey Channel
- Mangular/Oak Street Channel
- City of Corona
- Norco
- Orange County
- Chino Hills
- San Bernardino County
- Riverside County
- City of Riverside

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Note: Temescal Creek continues to Lake Elsinore



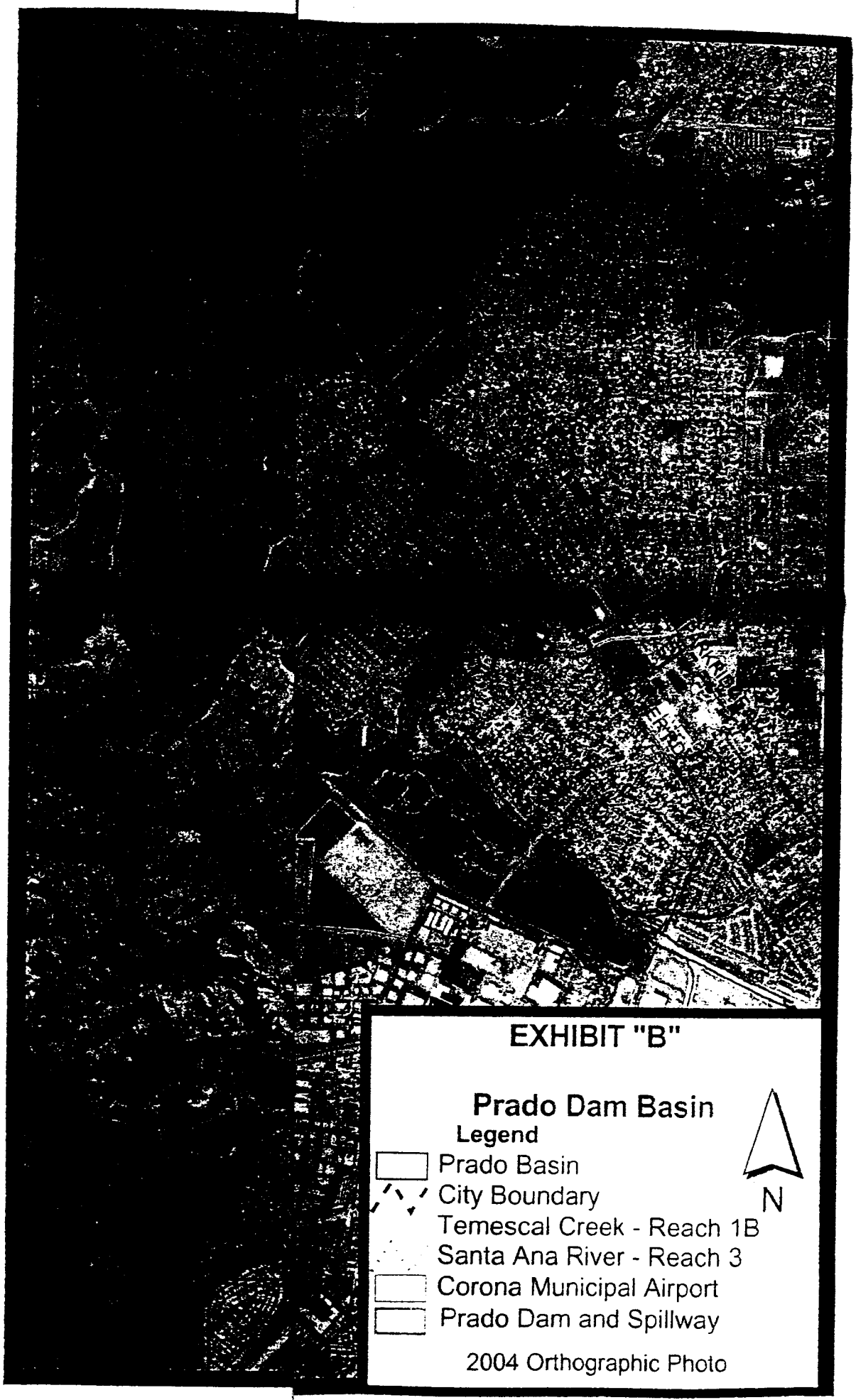


EXHIBIT "B"
Prado Dam Basin
Legend
Prado Basin
City Boundary
Temescal Creek - Reach 1B
Santa Ana River - Reach 3
Corona Municipal Airport
Prado Dam and Spillway
N
2004 Orthographic Photo

ARREN D. WILLIAMS
eral Manager-Chief Engineer

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June 24, 2005

Mr. Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality
Control Board - Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339

Dear Mr. Thibeault:

Re: Comments on Draft Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator Basin Plan Amendment

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MW4) operator and serves as the Principal Permittee on all of Riverside County's MS4 Permits. The District has also been participating in the TMDL workgroup since June 2001 and in the Santa Ana Stormwater Water Quality Standards Task Force (Task Force) since its inception. The District is submitting the following comments on the Draft Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDL, Basin Plan Amendment (BPA), and Supplemental Staff Report dated February 3, 2005.

The District stands by the original comments in our letter dated March 10, 2005 and submits the following additional comments.

2012 Implementation Date for Dry Weather Flows

Although dry weather flows from urban sources are minimal and generally infiltrate prior to receiving waters, seven (7) years is not adequate time to budget, design, construct and implement capital improvements necessary to divert dry weather flows from MS4s to treatment facilities. Further, setting 2012 as a compliance deadline to achieve numeric targets for dry weather flows would require planning efforts for such facilities prior to the completion of the Task Force effort. This may lead to wasted public dollars. The following table shows District MS4 facilities that outlet into Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River and associated costs in the installation of a diversion system consisting of inflatable dams/temporary storage, piping and pump stations to divert anticipated dry weather flow to existing publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs). It should be noted that the District is merely demonstrating anticipated costs of a diversion alternative and does not reflect the opinions of other public agencies or operators of area POTWs.

Estimated BMP Costs at District MS4 Outlets to Santa Ana River, Reach 3

MS4 Outlet	Dist. to POTW	Est. Cost
Box Springs Drain, Stg. 1	3.5 mi.	$ 1,108,800.00
Magnolia Center SD, Stg. 1	2.6 mi.	$ 823,680.00
Phoenix Ave. SD	1.9 mi.	$ 601,920.00
Sunnyslope Channel, Stg. 4	2.4 mi.	$ 760,320.00
Pedley 64th St. SD	1.9 mi.	$ 601,920.00
Anza Channel, Stg. 1	.3 mi.	$ 95,040.00
San Sevaine Channel, Stg. 5	2.9 mi.	$ 918,720.00
Day Creek Channel, Stg. 6	5.5 mi.	$ 1,742,400.00
Eastvale MDP Line B2, Lat. B3	2.4 mi.	$ 760,320.00
Eastvale MDP Line D (2002 Imprv.)	2.4 mi.	$ 760,320.00
North Norco Channel, Stg. 8	1.9 mi.	$ 601,920.00
South Norco Channel, Stg. 1	3.3 mi.	$ 1,045,440.00
Temescal Creek Channel, Stg. 3 & Oak St. Channel, Stg. 1 Confluence	3.3 mi.	$ 1,045,440.00
Mobile Industrial Pumps (100' head, 5 max. working at any time on any line)	N/A	$ 30,000.00
Total Temporary Diversion System Cost		***$ 10,896,240.00***

The estimated costs outlined above only includes pipe installation and pumps needed to transport dry weather flows collected in temporary storage at District facility outlets. These costs **do not** include temporary storage (i.e., underground detention vaults), treatment plant expansion and operational costs, any electrical or fuel requirements, outlet retrofit, operation and maintenance. Most importantly, please note that the District is merely demonstrating anticipated costs of a diversion alternative and **does not** reflect the opinions of other public agencies or operators of area POTWs.

As the table shows, even a simple solution of diversion of dry weather flows to existing POTWs can be cost prohibitive. Procurement of such a large amount of funds may require public agencies to move toward a special election in order to gain voters' approval of increased fees to fund TMDL compliance. This can be viewed as an uphill battle in the Inland Empire – the demographics of this area tend to be more conservative than those of Southern California's coastal communities.

The District recommends extending the target compliance date for dry weather flows to 2015. This will give public agencies approximately nine years to complete the work of the Task Force relating to appropriate Recreation use designations and corresponding objectives, conduct source investigations, explore emerging pathogen control BMPs and seek funding for capital projects or retrofits.

Interim *E. Coli* Standard

The District would like to clarify comments made in our March 10, 2005 letter to the Regional Board. The District's position **was not to suggest the implementation** of an interim *E. coli* standard at this time, but was to suggest that implementation of the TMDL should occur only after an appropriate indicator and numeric target for pathogen indicators have been determined by the Task Force. While we understand the Regional Board's need to fulfill a commitment to complete this TMDL, we believe the inclusion of an interim *E. coli* standard at this time would be counterproductive to the efforts of the Task Force.

Reporting Periods

The District is cognizant of the importance of monitoring data from sampling activities conducted throughout the year. The addition of sites and increased frequency of bacterial TMDL sampling requires additional staff time and labor costs, and the requirement for quarterly reporting will be an additional increase on the demand of staff time. The District recommends annual reporting in place of quarterly reports such that compiling the TMDL monitoring reports may be incorporated into the regular annual reporting process associated with the MS4 permits. These annual reports would be available to accompany the proposed triennial reports in the TMDL.

The District is committed to cooperating with the Regional Board and other stakeholders in developing and implementing programs to manage Urban Runoff. The District also has a duty to the citizens of Riverside County to practice responsible government and utilize taxpayer monies on projects and programs that guarantee benefits commensurate with their costs. Our comments are submitted in the spirit of this commitment and our duty to practice responsible government.

The District appreciates the opportunity to comment and work proactively with Board staff in the development of this TMDL. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Uhley of our Regulatory Division at 951.955.1273.

Very truly yours,

S. E. Stump

STEPHEN E. STUMP
Chief of Regulatory Division

Attachments
c: Co-Permittees
San Bernardino County Flood Control
Attn: Matt Yeager
ABC:cw
PC/95362